

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

SECRET

COUNTRY Bulgaria

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1. The State economic plans are prepared in Bulgaria and sent to the USSR where the Soviet Government modifies them according to Soviet needs and desires. The plans as returned to Bulgaria are unrealistic and impossible to fulfill. But no one in the Bulgarian Government dares to voice any objections for fear of being called a saboteur.
2. Statistical reporting of production is unreliable. Each worker falsifies his own production reports; the foreman in turn magnifies production figures still further, and so on up the line through the manager of the factory to the Minister of Industry. Everyone knows the production figures have been falsified, but so long as fulfillment is achieved on paper, no one cares. If, for instance, the government official in charge of a particular branch of industry states that his sector has fulfilled the plan 100%, actual achievement is more likely to have been 70 to 80%.
3. The major reason for the failure of the Government to achieve its industrialization plans is lack of coal. The country's coal mines, I have been told, produce about seven to eight million tons of good black coal per year. (Previous production was six million tons; the goal is ten million tons.) This is insufficient for the expansion and maintenance of heavy industry.
4. The Maritsa mine near Plovdiv produces soft coal.

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Bulgaria has imported nitrogen fertilizers from Eastern Germany; owing to the new Bulgarian plant, however, fertilizer is to be omitted from the 1952 agreement.

6. Razor blades are manufactured in Bulgaria but are of poor quality.
7. The railroad line from Sofia to Burgas has been under construction for thirty years and is not yet completed. The bottleneck is the construction of a tunnel through the Roznica Mountains, about 100-150 kilometers from Sofia.
8. The official exchange rate in Bulgaria is 300 leva to the dollar. The black market rate is 1,000-1,500 leva to the dollar.
9. An unskilled factory worker earns from 8,000 to 12,000 leva per month, skilled workers 12,000 to 20,000. The standard work week is 48 hours. The Minister of Foreign Trade receives a salary of 40,000 leva per month, an average Government employee 8,000 to 15,000.
10. A pair of shoes costs 6,000 to 7,000 leva, one meter of woolen cloth 6,000 to 7,000 leva, a kilogram of bread 80 leva. Clothing is scarce and expensive. Most of the people can afford meat only once or twice a week. To live comfortably, without any luxuries, a worker needs a salary of 30,000 leva. With a salary of 8,000 to 10,000 leva, he is hungry.

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